

From: mconway
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/10/01 7:38am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am writing to object to the proposed settlement of the Microsoft antitrust case.

I have viewed the settlement, and I strongly feel that the proposal is deficient in several ways:

It does not address Microsoft's illegal behavior, and does little to prevent such actions in the future. Microsoft has already been found to be guilty of antitrust, AND in violation of a previous consent-decree. I have worked with Microsoft products virtually every day for the last ten years, I have followed DOJ issues with Microsoft, and it is my firm opinion that Microsoft will not stop its illegal and damaging behavior under the terms of this decree.

The sharing of Microsoft source code is conditioned upon too many vague premises, and will be virtually unenforceable as it is currently written. I suspect that most of the language has been drafted by Microsoft's counsel, and may contain many grounds for interpretation, delay and stalling. I am particularly concerned that Microsoft itself will be able to define who meets the criteria for viewing the source code.

The settlement is too lenient and presents the appearance of impropriety, in that Microsoft has made sizeable and significant contributions to the current administration. The common perception among many members of the IT industry is that Microsoft is escaping with a 'slap on the wrist,' and this impression will spread to the general public, further eroding confidence in our administration.

Thank you,

Matthew Conway